Figure 4. **Number in Poverty and Poverty Rate: 1959 to 2011** Recession Numbers in millions 46.2 million Number in poverty Percent Poverty rate 15.0 percent

Note: The data points are placed at the midpoints of the respective years. For information on recessions, see Appendix A. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1960 to 2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.